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23 December 1969

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Steering Committee/ARGO Meeting, 9 December 1969

1. [] and I attended the meeting of the Steering Committee/ARGO on 9 December 1969. The meeting was held in Room 208 of the Executive Office Building.

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2. [] introduced himself to the group as the new ARGO Chairman. [] replaces [] in the President's Office of Science and Technology. [] however, presided over the meeting since he was more familiar with the individuals present and the pending subjects.

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3. Items remaining from the October meeting were discussed. It was mentioned that in order for NASA to establish a photographic laboratory in support of the Apollo underflight program, funds are needed. The purpose of this installation would be to process and reproduce the aircraft program materials only. NASA has combined their Earth Resources Program and Weather Program into a single effort entitled the Earth Observation Program. The proposed [] contract was mentioned as being in limbo until such time as tasks which require the assistance of such a contract facility are surfaced. It is hoped that some Science and Technology funds, which could support such a contract, will become available when a new budget is firmed up. [] announced that with the exception of some color material which is still being duplicated, the majority of the Camille photography has been disseminated. After such disasters, some means of coordination is needed in order to provide photographic coverage of the affected areas to the users on a timely basis. This effort is presently being worked on by [] Some means must also be found to provide the user with his needed coverage rather than the present method of issuing the user the entire take of a camera system when his need is for only a portion of the mission. Such a distribution system would reduce the amount of duplication needed and thereby affect a cost savings.

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4. [] of ESSA presented his findings on the Snow Line Project. He thanked the DOD for the flights flown in his support, [] for their suggested method of degradation printing and the NPIC for its production of the required special prints. The aim of the Snow Line Project was to determine the coarseness of resolution which will permit snow line detection to the required accuracy. His findings were that a well defined snow area can be distinguished to an accuracy of one-fourth the resolution of the system. This means that utilizing a 100 foot resolution system, the snow line can be plotted to a 25 foot accuracy. For a lesser defined snow area (wooded terrain) the results of the study indicate that the snow area can be distinguished to an accuracy of one-half the resolution of the system. Findings thus indicate that for snow line determination accuracies can be obtained which are above the resolution capability of the system. Predominant factors which make this possible are the high contrast of the subject involved (the lesser defined snow area which offers less contrast produces a reduced accuracy) and the fact that individual points are not being interpreted, but rather the lineament of the snow/no snow edge. This study indicates that ESSA can satisfy its requirements with a reconnaissance system of coarser resolution than had been previously expected. The study will thereby effect a cost savings in this program. The photography obtained for the Snow Line Project provided an interesting and beneficial side light. The high altitude coverage disclosed that the snow caps (above the solid snow field beginning at the snow line) were spotty to nonexistent. Conventional low-level observations had failed to disclose this fact and it had been presumed that the snow cover was solid from the snow line to the mountain peaks. With the disclosure that this was not true, previous plans to allow a large initial run-off were changed in order to retain an adequate water supply in dams and reservoirs. Originally this amount was to have been obtained from the second rise which, the high altitude photography disclosed, would not occur. This finding points up the fact that means, other than presently employed, are necessary to provide adequate information for a satisfactory water usage program. [] of

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the USGS presented a recap of their work on the Alaska Pipe Line Project. The project purpose is to determine the best route for a pipe line running from the south Alaskan shore to Prudhoe Bay. Adequate survey information was available from Fairbanks south, but sparse to nonexistent for the northern areas with the exception of the immediate Prudhoe Bay region. KH-4 material was utilized in conjunction with available ground truth to provide adequate information for route determination on WAC 250 plots. This work was accomplished at the Reston TK facility and it was estimated that a one-month effort utilizing KH-4 material is equal to 2 to 3 years work done by conventional means.

5. [] from the Office of the Chief of Engineers spoke on the application of aerial reconnaissance for:

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- a. Design of dams and reservoirs
- b. Disaster damage assessment
- c. Design of coastal installations

(1) The comprehensive coverage provided by satellite reconnaissance photography is of an advantage in determining the optimum locations for the construction of dams and reservoirs. Present satellite photography is, however, inadequate for the determination of terrain contour interval information necessary for construction since a 10 foot interval is the best that can be accomplished. Such interval information is suitable only for high dams where as aircraft photography from which [] contour intervals can be determined, is required for the majority of their work. A pilot project to compare the planning potential of aircraft/satellite coverage with conventional methods now in progress is in the mill. Its findings will be reported at a later date.

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(2) To be most effective, flood (disaster) zone damage assessment requires both before and after aerial photography. Once the disaster happens, the after coverage can be obtained; however, in a majority of cases the before disaster

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coverage is not available, not current, or requires entirely too much investigation to locate. The Office of the Chief of Engineers has in mind to develop a domestic coverage photographic bank of disaster prone areas to provide a data base for assessing damage if and when a catastrophe occurs. This proposal brought favorable comment from other members of the ARGO committee since they had all wished that someone would assume such an undertaking. The members expressed the hope that the Chief of Engineers Office would consider it a valuable effort and carry through on the idea. In addition, the coverage must be kept current by continuous updating, since only a current data base will provide the required information necessary for accurate damage assessment.

expressed the opinion that satellite photography will not provide an adequate data base because of the small scale and that aircraft photography should have an altitude range of from 6,000 to 10,000 feet. No focal length/camera system was mentioned.

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(3) A knowledge of wave height and direction is necessary for location selection and design of coastal installations. Satellite coverage is ideal for the determination of gross water surface patterns which indicate wave direction. Such photography is not suitable; however, for the direction of wave heights since a one foot accuracy interval is required. Laser ranging from aircraft was mentioned as a possible means of wave height determination but nothing more was said on this topic. Shoaling patterns, beach erosion, slit shift and inlet migration require a data base upon which changes can be established. Ten or twenty years of photographic coverage would pin down these changes and permit better planning of future installations and the establishment of channels with lower maintenance costs. This ten - twenty years of historic coverage is needed now and is not available. The point here is to start the collection process so that in ten - twenty years we will not face a similar problem, hindsight rather than foresight. In opinion, coverage better than presently obtained via satellite is required to provide adequate information. The classification problem presented by satellite photography was also named as a deterrent for its use in such projects.

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6. The author presented a briefing on the new Eastman Kodak aerial color film, S0-242. This briefing employed viewgraphs, obtained from [] of the Eastman Kodak Company, on the characteristics of S0-242. Ground resolution estimates of the S0-242 record [] were stated. The committee members were then shown examples of the color duplicate positives generated from the S0-242 originals acquired []. The group expressed interest in the utilization of S0-242 on Mission 1108 since this KH-4 coverage will provide a direct comparison between film types 3404 (black & white) and S0-242 (color) exposed in the same time frame with similar acquisition parameters.

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7. [] formerly of the Department of Agriculture mentioned that he had recently been on a trip to Mexico to discuss working with the Mexican government in an effort to sense and destroy marijuana crops via aerial reconnaissance and aerial chemical dusting. It is illegal to grow marijuana in Mexico but enforcement of this edict is impractical by conventional means. An off shoot of these methods may be an agreement with Turkey for the US to aid them in their control of the opium poppy.

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8. The next ARGO Meeting is scheduled for 28 January 1970.

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